S. HRG. 98–1108

NOMINATION OF DODIE TRUMAN LIVINGSTON

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

NOMINATION OF

DODIE TRUMAN LIVINGSTON TO BE CHIEF OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JULY 31, 1984

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NOMINATION OF DODIE TRUMAN LIVINGSTON TO BE CHIEF OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1984

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:15 a.m., in room SD–215, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Robert Dole (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Dole, Packwood, Danforth, Chafee, Heinz, Symms, Grassley, Long, Baucus, Bradley, Mitchell, and Pryor.

[The press release announcing the hearing and the prepared written statement of Senator Dole follows:]

[Press Release No. 84–161]

FINANCE COMMITTEE SETS HEARING ON NOMINATION OF DODIE LIVINGSTON

Senator Robert J. Dole (R., Kans.), Chairman of the Committee of Finance, announced today that the Committee would conduct a hearing and then meet in executive session on Tuesday, July 31, 1984, on the nomination by President Reagan of Dodie Truman Livingston to be Commissioner for the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families.

The hearing will commence at 10:00 a.m. in Room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Since January 1981, Ms. Livingston, of Washington, D.C., has served as Special Assistant to the President for administering the Office of Special Presidential Messages. From 1979 to 1981 she was director of the correspondence department for the Reagan-Bush Committee. Prior to 1979 she held various positions in the fields of communications and journalism. Ms. Livingston received her college education from San Jose State University.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE ON NOMINATION OF DODIE T. LIVINGSTON AS COMMISSIONER ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JULY 31, 1984

I am pleased to welcome Dodie Truman Livingston and her family to the Committee on Finance. Mrs. Livingston has been nominated as Chief of the Children's Bureau and will also serve as the Commissioner for the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Human Development Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

I am also pleased to welcome our colleague, Pete Wilson, who will introduce Mrs. Livingston to the Committee.

For the record, we have reviewed the financial disclosure forms of this nominee, and the materials filed with the Office of Government Ethics. I am satisfied that there are no problems in this area. Letters received from the Director of Government Ethics approving the nominee's compliance with the Ethics in Government Act will be made a part of the record.

The Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services, and other Federal and departmental agencies. The Commissioner is the principal advocate at the Federal level for the needs, concerns, and interests of children, youth, and families. The Commissioner plans, develops and implements a broad range of activities designed to support and encourage the sound development of children and their families, as well as serving as the focal point in the Department of Health and Human Services for initiatives affecting children and families.

Through its headquarters and 10 regional offices, the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families manages programs such as Head Start, Runaway Youth, Adoption Opportunities, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect. The Commissioner is also responsible for certain programs under title IV of the Social Security Act—Child Welfare Services and Training, Foster Care and Adoption Assistance. These programs are especially important to the Finance Committee whose members were closely involved in the development of the programs.

As Commissioner, Mrs. Livingston will be called upon to provide executive direction, leadership, management strategy, and legislative liaison with the Congress, the Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services, and the Assistant Secretary for Legislation. It is in this role that the Finance Committee will have the greatest contact with Mrs. Livingston and her staff, especially as we consider certain provisions of Public Law 96–272, the Child Welfare Act of 1980, which are scheduled to expire on October 1 of this year. The committee will be interested in progress reports and recommendations with regard to extending the provisions on a temporary or permanent basis.

Mrs. Livingston has had several years of experience on the Federal level and has organized and supervised a staff of some 200 people. She has also had the valuable experience of working in State government. This combination has given her an understanding of the need for a close relationship and improved coordination between the State and Federal Governments. Mrs. Livingston appreciates the need for this coordination aimed at improving the quality of services which her Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services provide.

Finally, Mrs. Livingston brings a personal dimension to the position—she is a single mother who has been through the adoption process and knows first hand the problems associated with day care and the so-called latch-key issue. This experience will enhance her administrative skills in an important way.

Thank you for coming today, Mrs. Livingston. Do you have a statement for the committee before we move to a few questions?

The CHAIRMAN. I apologize for being late, but we had a little Judiciary Committee matter.

We would like to take just a couple of minutes to take up one nomination. We promised Dodie for some time we were going to get her up here.

You really draw a nice crowd—we appreciate your coming this morning.

I want to welcome Dodie Truman Livingston and her family to the Committee on Finance. Mrs. Livingston has been nominated Chief of the Children's Bureau and will also serve as the Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Office of Human Development Services at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am also privileged and honored to welcome my colleague Senator Wilson who will introduce Mrs. Livingston at this time.

Dodie, do you want to introduce your family members?

Let me say, while you are being seated, that for the record we have the financial disclosure forms of this nominee, and the material is filed with the Office of Government Ethics. I am satisfied there are no problems in this area. The letter has been received from the Director of Government Ethics approving the nominee's compliance with the Ethics in Government Act and will be made a part of the record.

We are pleased to have you here, Senator Wilson.

Senator WILSON. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I am grateful to have the honor to introduce Dodie Livingston to the committee. Before I proceed further, you will notice that she has considerable moral support here at the witness table with her—her two sons, John and David, are present, and Ronald N. Langston, who is her special assistant.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the résumé of Dodie Truman Livingston gives ample evidence of her fitness for the position to which she has been nominated. Because of our concern for the time, I will simply say that she is admirably prepared to discharge her duties.

The responsibility that she will have as Chief of this Bureau for administration of a wide range of programs in HHS that seek to improve the promote the sound development of children and youth calls out in her background a great many activities and a sincere motivation on her part that is reflected in a number of activities that she has undertaken first as a volunteer and more recently in terms of professional preparation.

She brings a varied and an interesting background as an investigative reporter, as a women who has been concerned with the rights and the development of women and children. She has had extensive dealings as a mother, herself, and as a volunteer in the activities of the Parent-Teachers Association. She has been, as you know, most recently involved as a special assistant to the President of the United States.

I think that those who have been privileged to know her personally know that she brings a high energy and a very high degree of professionalism, and I think they know too that she is a woman of unimpeachable good character who is particularly well fitted for this responsibility by the concern that she has, not only for her own children but for the children of America in general.

She looks upon this responsibility as an opportunity to make a significant difference in the State-sponsored Federal programs which will be her responsibility.

I would only say that I know she is well known to the chairman, to the other members of the committee. She is, I think, rare in that she has become a citizen working mother who has found that her talents are much in demand, and she has gone from being a volunteer to being an administrator.

I would suggest that her administrative skills are perhaps exceeded only by the dedication that she will bring to this task and her enthusiasm for it.

Mr. Chairman, I won't take more of the committee's time. I think her résumé speaks for itself. You may have questions.

I would simply close by saying that I think the President has made a very wise choice. I think Mrs. Livingston is spectacularly equipped to discharge this responsibility.

The CHAIRMAN. Dodie, do you have a statement you would like to make before we give you the hard questions?

[The statement of Dodie Truman Livingston follows:]

DODIE TRUMAN LIVINGSTON
3314 - 45th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

(202) 456-2941 (office)
(202) 363-0565 (home)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Co-President, Horace Mann School PTA, Washington, D.C. (1982-83). Responsible for developing informational/educational programs for parents, overseeing fundraising and other special events, and acting as liaison from PTA to school officials and volunteer organizations.

Treasurer, Horace Mann Summer Day Camp (1983, 1984). Responsible for camp banking, accounting, and payroll functions.

Member, Vice President/Program Chairman, Mother's Club, Immanuel Presbyterian Nursery School, Los Angeles (1977-80). Developed and coordinated programs/activities to meet needs and interests of parents. Also served as substitute teacher on volunteer basis.

Member, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1971 to present). Served in a number of leadership positions in church organizations, including youth speech director; cultural refinement leader, visiting teacher, visiting teacher supervisor in the women's organization; first counselor, second counselor, secretary, and assistant nursery leader in the youth organization; member of the choir, and editor of two different ward newsletters.

Member, Phi Mu Fraternity (1957 to present). Held numerous leadership positions as a collegian and alumna, including president, regional director, and various national committee chairmanships. Responsible for providing guidance/direction to collegiate officers and members and for serving as a liaison to alumnae and to students affairs offices on university/college campuses. As a western regional director, developed a master plan for mobilizing collegians, alumnae, and parents to revitalization weak chapters. Plan was subsequently used in many areas of the nation.

White House Representative, Air and Space USA Advisory Board (1984).

Member and Secretary, Board of Directors, Fremont Place Homeowners Association, Los Angeles, California (1980).

Member and Publicity Chairman, Della Robbia Guild, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (1979-80).

Writer, feature articles on professional/professional volunteer women, The Aglaia of Phi Mu, circulation of over 85,000 (1978 to present).

Member, 46th Assembly District Community Council, Los Angeles. Responsible for helping Assemblyman to evaluate local needs and impact of pending legislation (1977-78).

Member, San Francisco-Oakland Newspaper Guild (1960's).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January 21, 1981, to Present

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D.C.

Responsible for administering the Office of Special Presidential Messages, a key dimension of the President's outreach to the business community, labor, religious and ethnic organizations, women and minorities, the handicapped, veterans, agriculture, the military, and youth.

- Administer the researching, writing, and editing of all written statements for the signature of the President for significant national and international events as well as Presidential proclamations.

- Confer regularly with all Federal departments, other members of the White House senior staff, Congressional offices, and leaders in the private sector in the preparation of Presidential messages.

- Assure that messages present the best possible representation of the President since they frequently receive widespread media coverage, reach thousands of people each week, and often are the only direct communication people have with the Administration.

November 1979 to January 1981

DIRECTOR, CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT
REAGAN-BUSH COMMITTEE

Supervised a staff and volunteer force of approximately 200 in presenting the candidate effectively to thousands of people throughout the United States and abroad -- both through written communications and phone banks.

- Served as chief writer, editor, and consultant in the Correspondence Department during the spring 1980 primary campaign. Responsible for developing the correspondence program and for training other writers. Also responsible for developing the strategy, style, and substance of this vital link in campaign communications.

- Supervised and personally handled the President-elect's personal correspondence in the Western headquarters during the Transition.

- Personalized the program to reflect Ronald Reagan's style and beliefs. Program subsequently became the model for the White House Offices of Special Presidential Messages and Correspondence.

February 1978 to November 1979

WRITER AND RESEARCHER
DEAVER & HANNAFORD PUBLIC RELATIONS
Los Angeles, California

Responsibilities included researching and writing statements and correspondence for D&H client Ronald Reagan.

Winter and Spring 1978

WRITER AND EDITOR
PETE WILSON GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN

Responsible for researching, writing, and editing a periodic newsletter to apprise campaign staff and volunteers of issues, developments, and activities.

Spring 1976

WRITER
REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION CAMPAIGN

Responsible for assisting with researching and answering the candidate's correspondence.

January 1972 to January 1975

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, Sacramento

- Responsible for clarifying issues, providing information on stat government, and evaluating suggestions from citizens as membe of then-Governor Reagan's staff.

- In May 1972 promoted to Director Verne Orr's staff at State Department of Finance to review, research, and prepare writte statements to individuals and other government bodies on tax, budget, and finance issues over the signature of the Director.

- Also responsible for reviewing and clarifying language in the annual budget and State Administrative Manual and for bill analysis.

September 1960 to April 1968

STAFF WRITER - INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER
THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE, Oakland, California.

- Responsible for researching and writing both news and feature articles for daily readership of over one-half million people.
- Conferred on a regular basis with officials from all levels and branches of government, community leaders, sports figures, and people with special circumstances.
- In 1964 selected for the California Teachers Association's John Swett Award for distinguished reporting in a series of articles on education finance issues.
- Specialized in reporting and writing on education issues at all levels, pre-school through college, and covered routine school matters as well as school unification elections, formation of new community college districts, and establishment of new colleges.
- In 1968 offered the position of Education Editor but declined in order to join new Reagan Administration in Sacramento.

EDUCATION

Oakland High School, Oakland, California, 1951-56.
San Jose State University, San Jose, California, 1956-60.

REFERENCES

The Honorable Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Craig Fuller
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mrs. Julia Flier
Director
Immanuel Presbyterian
Nursery School
Los Angeles, California

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Senator, I wanted to thank you for expediting my hearing; I appreciate it very much. And I want to thank Senator Wilson, who is an old friend from California, for giving me such a generous introduction.

I know you are familiar with what the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families is responsible for, but just to review it briefly—our major issues are child care, runaway youth, foster care, special needs adoptions, the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Head Start Program.

We have approximately 200 employees in Washington, and another 200 in the regions. We have a budget slightly in excess of $1.6 billion. We have a very dedicated staff who are very interested in assisting and protecting children.

As a single parent and a mother of two adopted children, and in fact as an adopted child myself, I feel that I have good insights into the areas in which we will be dealing, and I am very proud of the President's nomination.

I look forward very eagerly to continuing with my work.

I thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you introduced the children?

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Yes; Senator Wilson just did.

The CHAIRMAN. As I understand, you have discussed any possible conflicts of interest with Mr. DeArment and Mr. Stern. Do you know of any reason you could not responsibly serve in the office to which you have been nominated?

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. No.

The CHAIRMAN. And you have gone through that process with Mr. DeArment.

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Yes; we did go through that process.

The CHAIRMAN. I have a full statement that I would like to make a part of the record, and I would be very happy to now turn to my colleagues and see if they have any questions.

Senator PACKWOOD. I have no questions of Mrs. Livingston. Her record is exemplary. I am delighted to have you with us.

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Thank you very much, Senator Packwood.

Senator CHAFEE. I join in that, and we wish you the very best in the undertakings you are about to embark on.

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Thank you.

Senator HEINZ. I second that.

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Mitchell?

Senator MITCHELL. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Long?

Senator LONG. I am all for Horace Mann. My daughters went to school there. [Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Grassley?

Senator GRASSLEY. I have no comment, but obviously you have very serious and important responsibilities, and we wish you well in those.

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Has the administration taken a position on the expiring provisions of Public Law 96–272?

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Yes; we favor a 1-year extension.

The CHAIRMAN. What is 96–272? [Laughter.]

You know, the staff dreams up this stuff, and they never tell you what it is all about. [Laughter.]

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Public Law 96–272 is the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. It is the voluntary placement provision, and the conditional ceiling on Federal Financial participation which will expire next month.

The CHAIRMAN. Expires next month?

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. And we favor a 1-year extension.

The CHAIRMAN. I won't ask any of the other stupid questions. [Laughter.]

But if you have nothing else to say, we are very happy to have you here. I know it has been a long time for you, but we hope to report your nomination right now, if we can, since you have complied with all of the ethics in Government provisions and have met with the staff. Hopefully with Senator Wilson's leadership we can confirm your nomination this week.

Thank you very much.

[A letter from the Office of Government Ethics follows:]

United States of America
Office of Government Ethics

Office of Personnel Management
Washington, D.C. 20415

JUN 11 1981

Honorable Robert Dole
Chairman, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Mary Jo Truman (Dodie) Livingston, who has been nominated by President Reagan for the position of Commissioner, Administration for Children, Youth and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the Department of Health and Human Services concerning any possible conflict in light of the Department's functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Based thereon, we believe that Ms. Livingston is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

David H. Martin
Director

Enclosure

Mrs. LIVINGSTON. Thank you very much.
Senator WILSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The CHAIRMAN. Is there any objection to reporting the nomination?
[No response.]
The CHAIRMAN. If not, we will report the nomination.
[Whereupon, at 10:25 a.m. the hearing was concluded.]

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